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2 **ABSTRACT**

3       In an exemplary server implementation, a server is configured to retain at  
4 least one independent frame for each video channel of multiple video channels that  
5 are being distributed using multicast communications and is adapted to respond to  
6 channel change requests from clients by transmitting the retained at least one  
7 independent frame of a requested video channel to a requesting client using a  
8 unicast communication. In an exemplary method implementation, a method for  
9 fast channel changing in a multicast video distribution architecture includes:  
10 detecting a channel change request that indicates a requested channel, the  
11 requested channel corresponding to a multicast group; and transmitting a retained  
12 intra frame for the requested channel as a unicast communication.  
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